ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~A refuse collection apparatus is adapted to grab and lift a refuse container, dump the contents~~ thereof into a collection bin, and return the container to its original location. The apparatus includes a container grab assembly which includes a pair of opposed grabbing arms that are aligned in spaced relationship and operable by a fluid-operated actuating system to grab and release a container. The apparatus also includes an articulated, moveable arm assembly that is operable by a fluid-operated actuating system through an operating cycle that includes retracted, extended, lifting and dumping positions. The arm assembly includes a base link that is mounted adjacent to the collection bin and an upper link having a first end and a second end. The apparatus also includes a reach link also having a first end and a second end. The first end of the reach link is pivotally attached to the base and the second end of the reach link is pivotally attached to the upper link at an intermediate position between the first end and the second end. The apparatus also includes a lift arm having a first end and a second end. The first end of the lift arm is pivotally attached to the grab assembly and the second end of the lift arm is pivotally attached to the first end of the upper link. The arm assembly of the apparatus is designed to balance the mass of the apparatus during the operating cycle while balancing actuation of the actuators employed therein to allow for effective cushioning at the ends of the stroke of each actuator.